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# VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB

VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA

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**November 2010**

## President's Message

Hi All,

This is the month we do our prep for two things, Merriment on Main and the Christmas Party.

We need to finalize our list of club members that will be able to work Merriment on Main. Lets review the band plan and radio procedures at the meeting. These are the same details we reviewed and executed last year, it should be easy. Keep in mind Merriment on Main is by far the most fun we have as a club annually, lets keep it going.

We need to finalize our Christmas Party details as well. Raffle items, venue, cost, and date. Again, this is something we do annually so it should be easy.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting on 13 October.

73!

Scott Joseph, KI6YYZ

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## Meeting Minutes

The meeting as called to order about 7pm by club president Scott Joseph KI6YYZ.

No club meeting minutes were reviewed.

The September 2020 financial report was submitted by Bob Hewitt K6HEW as follows: The club general fund = $1,161, repeater fund = $749, prize fund = $95, ending balance = $2,005.30.

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Old Business: None

New Business:

It was motioned and approved that Jerry Olive KD6WKY be added to the club checking account as an additional signer so that two people can access club funds. As a standard business practice, more than one person should be able to access club funds as a signatory on the club checking account.

Merriment on Main will be on Tuesday, November 30 which is the first Tuesday following Thanksgiving. Details are pretty much the same as last year. We have 12 locations to support. Final details will be communicated at the November meeting. We'll need a sign up sheet then.

The meeting was attended by Chuck W6COB, Kim KI6JNX, Chris KD7TQO, Scott KI6YYZ, Tom N6AJR, Antonio N6ZGB, Art KI6UXE, Bob K6HEW, Bill WA6CAX, Glen KE7NEQ, Shiloh KI6WXR, Larry W6OMF, Jerry KD6WKY, Skip AF6HC.

The program was a Buddipole demonstration with discussion on the performance on the antenna and how portable antennas work.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm.

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## November Sweepstakes

By Jerry Olive, KD6WKY

November is a big contest month in amateur radio. Two main contests take place over two weekends which means each weekend in November the HF bands are full of people contesting, crowding each other out, and collecting contest points with dreams of wallpaper and bragging rights with their buddies.

This weekend I participated in the CW portion of the ARRL November Sweepstakes. You can look up the details of the contest if you really want to know, just know it's fun and a bit complicated at first.

The HF bands are definitely getting better. I worked all day long on the 15 meter band all over North America with no problem. Sunday morning I made 20 contacts one after another beginning at 0645am local time. That's pretty early for

15 meters to be open.

I had one emergency to deal with during the contest that took me away from the radio for awhile. My 18 year old daughter Julie rear ended a 2002 Volvo G60 on Alamo drive. She called me crying, told me nobody was hurt and the car was not damaged. I rushed over to the scene leaving my radio as is. Yes, she rear ended a car and caused some minor damage to the Volvo, but nobody was hurt. I handled it, took Julie home, made her relax, and eventually went back to the radio when thing calmed down. This is life!

I don't remember working so many very low power QRP, 5 watts or less type stations in this contest. Of the 333 contacts in my contest log, 18 of them were QRP from all over the country. Amazing.

Now that the contest is over, I have up loaded my log to the contest commissioner for review. In about a year I will know how well I did compared to the other contesters in our area. I up loaded that log into my station log as well, then up loaded it to Logbook of the World. Over the next week I'll get several confirmations via LoTW.

In the end I had the best outing ever, a big score, lots of contacts and 79 out of 80 sections. I missed South Dakota for a Clean Sweep. Next year!

Now I can dial up Hulu.com and pull up a 1968 episode of Hawaii Five-O and relax. Book'em Danno!

## Merriment on Main

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 30 to participate with the club as we support Merriment on Main. This is our 19th year in a row supporting Vacaville in the tree lighting ceremony in downtown Vacaville.

**VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB—2009 ELECTED OFFICERS**

President: Scott Joseph, KI6YYZ
Vice President: Kim Ware, KI6JNX
Secretary: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Director: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Antonio Del Rio, N6ZGB
Director: Glen Mitchell W6JLX

**APPOINTED POSITIONS**

Net Control Chairperson: Open
Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

## 2011 Club Officer Nominations

The following people have been nominated for our 2011 club officer positions:

President—Scott Joseph KI6YYZ

Vice President—Marcus Maclean KI6WDX

Secretary—Jerry Olive KD6WKY

Treasurer—Bob Hewitt K6HEW

Director—Tom Christman KE6MDM

All other positions will remain the same.

## Thelma Pascua DU1IVT Has a New Tower

I've spoken with Thelma DU1IVT several times on the air during contest on the past few years and have corresponded several times about ham radio equipment. Thelma is an engineer in the Philippines.

I noticed on her QRZ.com site that she is showing a huge antenna tower and beam so I asked her if this was new, here is her response to me:

Hi Jerry,

I'm sorry not having heard you. I was really having a difficult time earlier on 15m as there was a JA station very near my frequency.

I last worked you in 2007 as per my log.

I'd love to see a picture of your set up there and your wife, too. May I know also if she's a native of any province here?
My parents are both from the Ilocos region but I was born and raised in Manila. In 1979, after my father died, we transferred here, away from the busy area. But it's just around 25km away from Manila.

My tower was 1 year in my mind and just recently, July-August, I had to go through the needle's eye due to the restrictions here in our subdivision. The neighbor right in front of me gave me too much headache before I finally got their approval, after several meetings with the homeowners' association. How would you entertain questions like, "would your equipment intercept our telephone conversations?" or "we know how expensive your hobby is, but why not try cross-stitching instead?" and the like....hihi.

73 Thelma
DU1IVT

## 2010 ARRL Field Day Results

Congratulations to the W6VVR Vaca Valley Radio Club for finishing first in the 1A category in the East Bay Section. We also had the most participants (15 people) in the 1A category in the Pacific Division.

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## Amateur Radio Quiz: Cell-a-bration!

10/16/2010

by H. Ward Silver, N0AX
n0ax@arrl.net

*I just finished reading* The Battery -- How Portable Power Sparked a Technological Revolution *by Henry Schlesinger and found it a very interesting read. It's not too technical, it's filled with lots of fascinating historical detail -- and ham radio even makes an appearance or two! I thought incorporating some of the book's historical surprises into a shocking quiz would give you a charge.*

1) What fossil material can be used to generate static electricity?
a. Coprolyte
b. Lodestone
c. Amber
d. Coal

2) What animal contributed to Galvani's discovery of electrophysiology?
a. Cat
b. Frog
c. Electric Eel
d. Cow

3) Which World War II device depended on a miniature battery?
a. Atomic bomb
b. Depth charge
c. Heliograph
d. Proximity fuse

4) What was the original name of the battery company now known as Duracell?
a. Ray-O-Vac
b. Mallory
c. Burgess
d. Eveready

5) Whose co-worker coined the terms "anode" and "cathode" to describe the electrical polarity of terminals?
a. Franklin
b. Faraday
c. Davy
d. Henry

6) Who came up with the terms "charge" and "discharge"?
a. Franklin
b. Volta
c. Priestly
d. Newton

7) When were the standard battery cell sizes used today, such as "D cell," first published?
a. 1919
b. 1927
c. 1941
d. 1955

8) A Leyden Jar is an early example of what type of electrical component?
a. Vacuum tube
b. Inductor
c. Transformer
d. Capacitor

9) What company first marketed a portable transistor radio to consumers?
a. Sony
b. I.D.E.A.
c. Sharp
d. Motorola

10) What is the chemistry of a Planté Cell?
a. Carbon-zinc
b. Lead-acid
c. Zinc-air
d. Nickel-cadmium

**Bonus**: For what was the original "energizer" battery designed?

***Answers***

1) c -- When rubbed with a cloth, the surface of this non-conductive mineral could hold a charge.
2) b -- Frog legs in a metal pan twitched when touched with metallic surgical instruments.

**THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU**

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988 General Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Vine Street Fire Station.

**Wheelchair accessible**

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at:
http://www.jcis.net/~hewbob/vvrc/vvrcnews.htm
Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3

The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 7pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-) WV6F 440.025(+)
W6OMF Repeater 224.540 MHz, PL 118.8 Hz.

3) d -- Built into the tip of artillery and anti-aircraft shells, the battery powered miniature range-finding electronics.

4) b -- Its founder, P. R. Mallory, was an heir to the Mallory Line, a 19th century shipping firm.
5) b -- William Whewell worked closely with Faraday and helped develop a standardized electrical terminology.
6) a -- During his study of electricity, Benjamin Franklin contributed many words still in use today.
7) a -- The National Bureau of Standards and representatives of the battery industry created the designations.
8) d -- Invented in Leyden (or Leiden), the Leyden Jar can store a lot of energy.
9) b -- Called the Regency TR-1, it contained four Texas Instruments transistors and debuted in 1954.
10) b -- Gaston Planté invented the widely-used lead-acid cell in 1859

***Bonus answer***: The first electric watch, made by the Hamilton Company.

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## Amateur Radio Operators Provide Communications Support During Chilean Mine Rescue

10/14/2010

As the last of the 33 miners who were trapped 2300 feet deep inside (and 3 miles from the mine entrance) the San José Mine -- located about 27 miles from the Chilean town of Copiapó in the Atacama Desert -- rose to the surface at 0055 UTC on October 14, the world cheered in unison. The miners, who were underground for 69 days -- the longest time ever for miners to be trapped and survive -- all emerged relatively healthy.

According to the Radio Cub de Chile (RCCH) -- that country's IARU Member-Society -- amateurs with the Radio Club Copiapó, CE1CPI, provided communication support between the authorities and emergency equipment operators inside the San Jose Mine complex, as well as with family of the trapped miners in the complex and authorities in Copiapó. "There are no other means of communication at the scene," said Radio Club Copiapó President Jose Maldonado Lazo, CE1RXY. "The group is working in the area of the mine with three phones, while amateurs in Copiapó "are covering all the needs of SENCO [a construction company], SAMU [ambulance and EMT], the Interior Administration and the fire and police departments. We do this gladly and hope that this has a happy ending."

According to Erico José Andrade, CE2EPB, Radio Club Copiapó has a lot of equipment, enabling the club to cover almost all of the Atacama Region: "This helped effectively from the outset after the accident, because the mine complex where the emergency occurred did not have contact with ordinary phones that could coordinate the rescue effort in the shortest time possible."

Some of the 80 members of Radio Club Copiapó installed amateur equipment in the mine complex, and volunteers from the club have, from the moment the mine collapse first occurred on August 5, have taken shifts to provide communication support. "This, together with additional mobile police stations, hospitals and fire battalions, kept everyone abreast of all the needs and urgent requirements," Andrade explained.

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## The Weather Outside Was Frightful During First Antarctic VE Session

0/11/2010

October 8, 2010 was one of those gorgeous early fall days we in New England get to enjoy from time to time: Sunny, highs in the mid-70s and not a cloud in the sky. Although her department coordinates thousands of VE sessions each year, Maria Somma, AB1FM, was particularly excited about the one that began at 5 PM last Friday: The first VE session from Antarctica. As it happens, the temperature outside Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station was also in the mid-70s – with the addition of a minus sign!

A total of eight candidates took the Technician exam, and all eight are now licensed amateurs. As of Monday, a couple have even created pileups while making their first contacts! The point of contact "way down under" was Ernie Gray, W1MRQ. Ernie also served as an examiner. The other two were in the ARRL VEC office in Newington – Penny Harts, N1NAG, and Steve Ewald, WV1X.

It was the first VE exam on the Antarctic continent, and no doubt the coldest exam session in history.

Ernie told the ARRL that the process began last year, but didn't get too far until this past winter (summer in the Northern Hemisphere), when "they were in my face asking how we can make this happen." He continued: "A meeting was held in May and about a third of the 47 winterovers attended….The idea of an exam session came up almost right away."

"We are all contract workers for Raytheon Polar Services Co of Centennial, Colorado….They have been exposed to ham radio through the permanent ham stations here on the ice and some wanted to be hams for years, just didn't know how to go about it….The South Pole winter crew has been isolated here since February and I have been giving talks and demonstrations about Amateur Radio and even made some contacts from my shack. We do try to fight isolation from all the things at home and the boredom from being sequestered inside this steel cocoon. I knew at that moment that I had to make this happen, I was going to make this happen."

Somma provided this report: "On Friday, October 8, 2010 at 5 PM, we gathered in the VEC office to start the video conference exam session. At the South Pole it was already 10 AM Saturday. Everyone there was in their conference room with each candidate's laptop logged onto the ARRL VEC examination Web site. All three participating ARRL VEs were able to

observe and communicate before, during and after the session. Participating VEs filled in all forms related to the session via the Web. Three different interactive online Tech exams were available so Ernie could randomly assign different versions to the candidates and they could all take the exam at the same time. The results were reported to the candidates within a few minutes of electronic submission to the VEC and VE team. All eight had passed!"

Gray reported: "I had a couple in the KC4AAA ham shack and they had a short QSO on 40 SSB this past weekend. I hope to have them all through before we depart for home [starting in November]."

IT support was provided by Andy Shefrin and Hugh Brower, KB1NFI at ARRL HQ and by Marc Stavale at Amundsen-Scott.

Somma was pleased with the way the historic session turned out: "During my 25 year tenure at the ARRL, this has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever been involved in. It was very gratifying to help them achieve their goal!"

Gray agreed, commenting: "*Nothing* I have ever done previously and probably *nothing* I will ever do again will give me as much satisfaction as what has been accomplished by these eight individuals down here this winter. This is the highpoint of my ham radio experience and I hope I still have a few more good years to go!"

## Dissolution of Netherlands Antilles Creates Four New DXCC Entities

0/13/2010

The dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles has caused changes to the DXCC List. As per the DXCC rules, the two Netherlands Antilles DXCC entities will be deleted and moved to the Deleted Entities List. Four new entities will be added to the DXCC List: (1) Curaçao; (2) Sint Maarten; (3) Saba and St Eustatius, and (4) Bonaire. The event date and time for these changes was 0400 UTC, October, 10 2010. Confirmations for these new entities will be accepted for credit starting January 1, 2011. Other administrative changes and actions will be announced as they are finalized.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

# VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely — Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
Street: _____
City: _____Zip: _____
Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)
License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)
E-Mail Address_____

**FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)**

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues ----------$20.00 _____
Each Family Member ---$ 2.00 _____
Student ----------$ 5.00 _____
Repeater/Autopatch donation--- _____
Call/Name badge ---------$10.00 _____
Optional ARRL membership
ARRL dues----------$37.00 _____

Total---------- _____
Paid by CASH: ____ Check #_____
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Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143